

Executive Director's Report

March 23, 2004

Announcements

- In the redistricting case, Judge Fields signed an order that permits candidates in the 2004 election to collect nomination petition signatures and \$5 qualifying contributions from the old 2004 legislative districts and any subsequent districts approved for 2004. The order has been precleared by the Justice Department.
- The new 2004 legislative districts proposed to Judge Fields on March 5th are now pending the judge's approval after a 30 day public comment period.
- On April 29th, I will be a panelist for a seminar on Arizona Election Law sponsored by the State Bar.
- Fund Balance at the end of February was \$12,244,850.
- The "Keep it Clean" campaign, the committee organized to defend Clean Elections was launched last Tuesday, March 16th, with a supportive crowd of more than 250 people.

Candidate Information Update

- There are 67 certified participating candidates to date.
- The *Participating Candidate Guide* and *Nonparticipating Candidate Guide* have been completed and include the recent rule changes. The *Guides* are posted on the website and will also be available on CD.
- Secretary of State's Office has agreed to modify the Campaign Finance Software so that the participating candidates may print a list of the qualifying contributors when they apply for funding.
- The next training classes will be as follows:
 - Participating candidate training class will be in Phoenix, March 24th.
 - Nonparticipating candidate training class will be in Phoenix, March 31st
 - Treasurer training class will be in Phoenix, March 29th
- Due to popular demand, an additional treasurer training class has been added and will be held in Tucson on April 5 and an additional participating candidate training classes will be held in Prescott on April 19. Postcards for treasurer training classes were sent to all candidates and treasurers in our database notifying them of the training dates.

Voter Education

- Public Relations Contract ends in March 2004. The Scope of Work for new PR contract has been transmitted to SPO (State Procurement Office) for the RFP to be opened for qualified vendors. Due to understaffing at SPO, the bidding process will be delayed for about 2 months so the current contract will be renewed on a month-to-month basis.
- For the newspaper advertisements of the \$5 qualifying contributions, we have added more dates that the ads will run, and the language in the ad has been modified slightly based on Commissioners Busching's suggestion at the last meeting. The ad and the run dates are included in the information items.
- Prepared information materials for: debate sponsors, candidates, and moderators to assist with the guidelines set forth in the contract. A meeting with all debate sponsors is

scheduled for March 31st. The materials for the sponsors are enclosed in the packet as an information item.

- In reference to Chair McKay's 'My Turn' article submitted to the *Arizona Republic*, it appears that the paper has no intention to print the article.
- The second quarter *Bulletin*, the Commission's newsletter, has been completed and will be distributed and posted on the website by April.
- For the changes to the Candidate Statements Pamphlets approved at the last meeting, the preclearance submission has been sent to the Justice Department and all amendments to the printing and graphic design contracts have been completed.

Legal Matters

- *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons v. Brewer* (challenge to matching funds provision in the Clean Elections Act) was filed in federal district court on January 29, 2004. Then, the Motion for a Preliminary Injunction was filed by the Plaintiffs on February 18th. The Commission's Response to the Motion was filed on March 12, 2004. The Institute for Justice filed a Reply, which is enclosed in the packet materials.
- Audit RFP completed. Letter sent to potential vendors to notify them of the solicitation and for them to register with SPO. The contract is expected to be awarded in April.